UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1992/L.5/Add.19
17 September 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND
COORDINATION
Resumed thirty-second session
31 August-18 September 1992
Agenda item 9

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS RESUMED THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 17. Science and technology for sustainable development

1. At its 40th meeting, on 15 September 1992, the Committee considered revisions to programme 17 (Science and technology for sustainable development) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 17)).

Discussion

2. A number of delegations were of the view that the proposed revisions placed excessive emphasis on the environmental aspects of science and technology issues and did not take into account the needs of developing countries to strengthen their technological capacities, including through access to new technologies. In this context they felt that the proposed new title of programme 17 unduly reduced the scope of the programme. A number of delegations, however, supported the proposals of the Secretary-General.

3. A number of delegations were of the view that the narrative of the programme was too general and lacked a concrete and specific description of what would be done and what was expected to be achieved.

4. A number of delegations felt that subprogramme 4 was of limited importance and could be deleted. Related activities could be transferred to other subprogrammes under programme 17 and to programme 38 (Public information), as appropriate.

5. One delegation proposed that subprogrammes 1 and 2 be consolidated into one subprogramme entitled "Industrial technology".

6. One delegation proposed the following amendments to the revisions:

(a) Paragraph 17.4 (d): Insert the words "avoiding duplication and" after the words "with a view to";

(b) Paragraph 17.4 (e): Replace the text of subparagraph (e) with the following: "to support and harmonize with the work of the high-level Commission on Sustainable Development, to be established in accordance with chapter 38 of Agenda 21, within the mandate of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development";

(c) Paragraph 17.7: In the penultimate sentence delete the word "effectively" and after the word "reasonable" insert the word "far-sighted".

7. One delegation questioned the rationale for replacing the words "where possible" with "as needed" in the first sentence of paragraph 17.18 and suggested that the existing text be retained.

8. One delegation did not agree with the deletion of paragraph 17.19 and suggested that the paragraph be retained.

9. One delegation proposed that the words "increasing the efficiency" in paragraph 17.21 (g) be replaced by the words "wider application".

Conclusions and recommendations

10. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 20 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 17.11: At the end of the paragraph, delete the following words: "and the Task Force on Sustainable Development of the Administrative Committee on Coordination";

(b) Paragraph 17.12: In the third line from the bottom, after the word "particularly" insert the words "Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and";

(c) Paragraph 17.24 (f): After the words "developing countries" insert the words "and countries in transition from central planning to a market economy";

(d) In the general orientation part of the narrative, reference should be made to the need to address specific problems that countries in transition from central planning to a market economy confront in strengthening their technological capacity.

11. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly review the proposed revisions to the titles of programme 17 and subprogramme 1 in the light of the relevant mandates. Pending the decision of the Assembly on this issue, the Committee recommended that the existing titles be maintained.